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# Sample Principal's Letter before STAR Testing Begins

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Dear Parents or Guardians:

Your student, along with public school students throughout California, will participate in the state's Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program this spring. The STAR tests will be administered on \_\_\_\_\_. Make-up days will be on \_\_\_\_\_ and on \_\_\_\_\_.

All students in California in grades 2 through 8 will be tested in reading, written expression (language), spelling, and mathematics. Students in grades 9, 10, and 11 will be tested in reading, writing (language), mathematics, science, and history-social science.

For the third year, students will be tested in English with the Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition, Form T (Stanford 9). As part of the STAR program, students also will be given additional test questions that match state-adopted content standards for reading, writing, and mathematics. The purpose of the augmentation is to better align the STAR program with state standards that specify what students should know and be able to do at every grade. This is the second year for the STAR augmentation.

## For the Intermediate Level

In grades 6 through 8, questions for the STAR augmentation in reading and writing are tied to what students should know and be able to do at specific grade levels. That is also true for the augmented mathematics questions in grades 6 and 7. In grade 8, however, the augmented mathematics questions are not tied to a specific grade level but to the math course in which a student is enrolled. For example, an eighth grader in algebra I takes the algebra I augmentation. Eighth graders not in one of these specific math courses are not given the augmented math test. If eighth graders are enrolled in a math class above or below the test designated for their grade level, those results are not included in the school or district results.

## For the High School Level

In grades 9 through 11, questions for the STAR augmentation in reading and writing are tied to what students should know and be able to do at specific grade levels. That is also true for the augmented mathematics questions in grade 11. In grades 9 and 10, however, the augmented mathematics questions are not tied to a specific grade level but to the math course in which a student is enrolled. Courses specified for the STAR augmentation are algebra I, geometry, algebra II, 1st-year integrated math, 2nd-year integrated math, and 3rd-year integrated math. If ninth or tenth graders are enrolled in a math class above or below the test designated for their grade level, those results are not included in the school or district results.

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In addition to the STAR test in English, limited English-proficient Spanish-speaking students who first enrolled in California public schools less than 12 months prior to testing were given the Spanish Assessment of Basic Education (SABE/2).

A report of your student's results on the test will be sent to your home within 20 days after they arrive in the district. If your student takes the SABE/2, results for that test will be on a separate report.

School, district, county, or state results will not be included with the student reports sent to your home. These scores will be available on the Internet at [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov) on July 15, 2000. Only school, district, county, and state results will be available on the Internet. Individual student results are confidential and will be shared only with each student's parents/guardians and teachers.

Our staff is planning several activities prior to the end of school to help you understand your student's test results when they arrive. We will send you more information about these activities when plans are finalized.

Please contact our school office at \_\_\_\_\_ if you have questions about the STAR testing schedule for this spring or the process for reporting student and school results.